UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/593
30 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Mr. Momir Bulatovic, President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concerning the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-18833 (E) 300698

/...

Annex

Letter dated 24 June 1998 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you concerning the forthcoming expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) and the upcoming debate in the Security Council on the subject. In its resolution 1147 (1998) of 13 January 1998, the Security Council authorized UNMOP to continue to monitor the demilitarization of Prevlaka until 15 July 1998. While accepting the terms of the resolution, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia deems it necessary that the mandate of UNMOP be extended.

Although the security situation in the Prevlaka area has improved and tensions have been considerably reduced in comparison with the previous period, the security risks have not been removed, creating a climate of insecurity and making confidence-building measures and the search for a peaceful solution to this disputed territorial issue more difficult. These risks result from the behaviour of the Croatian side, which continues, as the Security Council has already been informed, to violate the status of the United Nations-controlled area and which does not comply with Security Council decisions. In addition to the presence of its military and special police forces in the "blue" and "yellow" zones, where military installations and positions accompanied by appropriate infrastructure and equipment have been built, the Republic of Croatia, on a daily basis, violates the security regime established by the United Nations by allowing the movement of civilians, various civilian and military vehicles and vessels in the prohibited zone. In this way, the Croatian side attempts to demonstrate the legitimacy of its authority in the area under United Nations control. This is felt by the population of Herceg Novi and Boka Kotorska as a constant threat, causing anxiety and apprehension among that population. On the other hand, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia does not endanger in any way the inhabited areas on the Croatian side.

The Yugoslav side consistently applies the regime of demilitarization and security in the Prevlaka area. The infrequent violations of that regime from the Yugoslav side were either accidents or the result of misunderstandings over the boundaries of the zones, which were clarified in regular contacts with UNMOP.

In pursuance of Security Council resolution 1147 (1998), the Yugoslav side has taken further steps in accepting and implementing the practical options for the reduction of tension and enhancement of security in the Prevlaka area.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes the calls of the Security Council for a negotiated settlement of the disputed issue of Prevlaka between the two States as soon as possible. The Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is prepared to embark immediately upon negotiations on the settlement of this territorial dispute in accordance with the Agreement on the Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and

the Republic of Croatia and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and good neighbourly relations.

Proceeding from the foregoing and from the situation on the ground, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that it is necessary for the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNMOP beyond 15 July 1998 and for the United Nations military observers to remain in the area until a commonly acceptable solution to the disputed territorial issue of Prevlaka is found through bilateral negotiations. I assure you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for its part, will resume full cooperation with this important United Nations mission, and that it will extend its support to the performance of its tasks.

(Signed) Momir BULATOVIĆ